



Henry County Logo

E-Newsletter from the official website of Henry County, VA

Henry County Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to the April 2008 edition of the Henry County E-Newsletter. If you have suggestions for how the E-Newsletter can be improved, please contact Tim Hall at thall@co.henry.va.us.

County Administrator proposes FY 2009 County Budget

Henry County Administrator Benny Summerlin presented his proposed FY 2009 Henry County Budget to the Board of Supervisors on April 3. Mr. Summerlin proposed a budget of \$127,756,265. That's an increase of about 4.4% over the current County budget, with most of the increase created by the Commonwealth of Virginia's increase in funding to the School System of nearly \$3.4 million.

Highlights of the proposed Budget include the construction of a new shell building in the Patriot Centre, Henry County's largest business and industrial park. Summerlin proposed that the \$3.5 million, 100,000 square foot facility be constructed through a partnership with the City of Martinsville, The Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, and the Harvest Foundation. This arrangement would be identical to the financing plan that was used to construct the most recent shell building in the Patriot Centre, which will be used to house RTI International. RTI announced in January that it would build a manufacturing facility in that shell building and spend \$100 million on the facility and equipment. RTI manufactures titanium for the military and aeronautical industries and plans to be operational by mid-2009. RTI will hire 150 people at an average wage of \$40,000 a year. It also will be Henry County's largest consumer of water and wastewater services, electricity, and natural gas.

Mr. Summerlin also proposed a 2% pay increase for County employees, effective July 1, and the staffing of three more of the County's Convenience Centers. Since making changes to our refuse collection system September 1, which included gating and restricting hours at all seven Convenience Center sites and manning two sites, Henry County has saved \$20,000 a month in landfill tipping fees. The sites recommended for staffing are the Jack Dalton, Axton, and Red Oak centers.

Mr. Summerlin indicated that Henry County would receive approximately \$400,000 less in funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia for FY '09, which represents a 5% cut. He said that the County could anticipate another 5% cut for FY '10, so it is important that County staff and the Board of Supervisors do all they can this year to prepare for those cuts next year.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a budget work session April 10 at 5 p.m., then hold a Public Hearing on the School Budget and the Total County Budget on April 14 at 7 p.m. Both meetings are open to the public.

The entire proposed FY '09 County Budget is available online at <http://www.henrycountyva.gov/>.

Household Hazardous Waste Day scheduled April 12

The first Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day of 2008 will be held Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Henry County Administration Building.

The service is free and available to all residents of Henry County and Martinsville. No items from businesses or industries will be accepted. The event is sponsored by Blue Ridge Paints and Solvents, Southwest Virginia Batteries, EMI Recycling, Gateway

Streetscape, Henry County, the City of Martinsville, and the American Area Community Foundation.

Local residents can use the event to get rid of caustic household items that they cannot deposit in local Convenience Centers. These items may include solvents, paints, fuels (including gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, heating oil, boat fuel, and chainsaw fuels), lead-acid batteries, and computers. Items that cannot be brought to Household Hazardous Waste Day include smoke detectors, compressed gas cylinders, explosives or shock-sensitive materials, radioactive materials, infectious or biologically active materials, household cleaners, pesticides, drain cleaners, herbicides, fluorescent light bulbs, gas tanks, and oil tanks.

Any items brought after 12 noon will not be accepted. For more information, contact Henry County's Mike Amos at 634-2503.

Bobby Hamilton Racing establishes shop in Martinsville-Henry County

The Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is pleased to announce the relocation of Bobby Hamilton Racing (BHR) to the Patriot Centre. BHR, formed by the late Bobby Hamilton, Sr. more than 10 years ago, was previously located in Mount Juliet, TN.

Lori Hamilton, the widow of the late Bobby Hamilton Sr., said discussions regarding moving the team began in 2005. "BHR was extremely successful where it was ... but behind the scenes we had numerous meetings with Martinsville and Henry County about moving the team. NASCAR obviously has a hub and it's convenient to be close to it."

In late 2007 BHR merged with a group of five Virginia businessmen and racers - Mac Bailey, CEO of S&M Brands; Mark Melling, owner of Melling Products; Stacy Compton, current BHR driver in the #4 Dodge truck; Joey Arrington, founder of Arrington Manufacturing in the Patriot Centre; and Clay Campbell, president of Martinsville Speedway. The merger culminated with the relocation of the team to Henry County.

BHR fields two NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series teams - the #4 driven by Compton and the #18 Dodge driven by Dennis Setzer. The team didn't wait long to make its mark on the NASCAR circuit this year, as Setzer drove his truck to victory at the Kroger 250, held at its home track of Martinsville Speedway, on March 29.

Groundbreaking set for Smith River Sports Complex

The Harvest Foundation is pleased to announce the groundbreaking for Smith River Sports Complex. The event will take place April 12 at the site of the complex off Route 650 (Irisburg Road) near Freedom Baptist Church. It will begin at 3 p.m. Carpooling is encouraged because of limited access to the site.

The Smith River Sports Complex is one of two Harvest-funded facilities coming to the Henry County-Martinsville area. The other, a multi-use sports arena, will be constructed in uptown Martinsville. The Smith River Sports Complex will include two championship-caliber artificial turf fields and four natural surface fields. There will be walking trails, a concession area, meeting rooms and playgrounds.

Chestnut Knob-Ridgeway water project under way

Construction on the long-awaited Chestnut Knob-Ridgeway Water Line Extension Project is now underway. When completed in approximately 12 months, the \$4.5 million project will mean public water for Magna Vista High School and potentially 200 other new customers, as well as provide a more reliable source of water for about 115 customers currently on well systems. In addition, current PSA customers along the route will see better quality water, since it will come from the PSA's Philpott plant.

The project will allow the PSA to close five well systems, remove five water tanks and put about 13.3 miles of new water pipe into service. Construction will be done by two local firms - Prillaman and Pace and Steve Martin's Trenching.

Anyone interested in signing up for service along the construction route, or anyone interested in more information on the project's benefits, should contact the PSA at one of the following numbers: Wade Nester (276) 634-2570 or Jeff Turton (276)

634-2568, or the PSA Customer Service Office at (276) 634-2500.

For more information about the Henry County, Virginia., visit The Official Website of Henry County, Virginia at

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